(a) whether India has stalled the claim of a potential sea bed located between India and Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, whether this would lead to a dispute with Sri Lanka; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to sort it out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. India has submitted its partial claim for an extended continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles before the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf on 11th May, 2009. The submission is without prejudice to matters relating to delimitation of boundaries with the neighbouring states, which includes Sri Lanka. Bilateral negotiations with Sri Lanka are underway for delimitation of continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles.

Strengthening of RTI Act

*185. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:
SHRI SABIR ALI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to strengthen the Right to Information (RTI) Act; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The Government proposes to strengthen the right to information by suitably amending the law to provide for disclosure of information in all non-strategic areas. It is proposed to review the Second Schedule of the Right to Information Act, 2005, and make rules for more disclosure of information by public authorities under clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 4 of the Act.

Internet services in hilly States

*186. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of Internet services being provided by BSNL in various parts of the country is unsatisfactory, particularly in hilly States like Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there has been inordinate delay in giving Internet/Landline connections to applicants in suburban and rural areas of the State;

(d) if so, whether Government has examined the matter in view of increasing future demands in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and